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PHILIPPINES PUTS MARCOS HOLDINGS IN THE BILLIONS

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MANILA, March 4 — The Philippine Government said today that it had documents linking former President Ferdinand E. Marcos to overseas property holdings whose worth could be in the billions of dollars.

One set of documents being investigated appears to tie two New York real estate investors, Ralph and Joseph Bernstein, to holdings by the Marcos family.

The House of Representatives voted last Thursday to cite the Bernstein brothers for contempt for not answering questions about their relationships or business dealings with Mr. Marcos and his wife, Imelda. The vote on Ralph Bernstein was 352 to 34, and the vote on Joseph Bernstein was 343 to 50.

Some Justices Said to Quit

In another matter, there were unconfirmed reports that some justices on the Philippine Supreme Court had resigned, as President Corazon C. Aquino has demanded. But Mrs. Aquino's close advisers said they had not had word that any resignations had been tendered, although they said such a move might come soon.

All 13 justices were appointed by Mr. Marcos, and Mrs. Aquino wants to clear them away for a new court.

Jovito R. Salonga, who heads a commission charged with recovering what is known as Mr. Marcos's "hidden wealth," both here and abroad, said at a news conference today that "we have enough documents to prove our case in the courts of New York."

'Documents Link the Cronies'

"Those documents exist," he said, "and those documents link the cronies and business associates with the acquisition of property for, and in the name of, Mr. Marcos. Those documents will be in due time produced in courts of justice, specifically before the New York court."

American intelligence estimates of the wealth of Mr. and Mrs. Marcos range from \$2 billion to \$3 billion, according to Congressional and intelligence sources. Representative Stephen J. Solarz, Democrat of Brooklyn, whose House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs had sought to question the Bernstein brothers, said in a recent interview that intelligence estimates provided to him put the wealth of Mr. and Mrs. Marcos at over \$1 billion each.

The sources also said United States intelligence agencies, especially the Central Intelligence Agency, had received numerous reports in the last several years about Marcos holdings. But, the sources added, the intelligence agencies had not been able to verify most of the reports or put together a detailed breakdown of the holdings.

Mr. Salonga, asked the total worth of the illegal assets of Mr. Marcos, his family and friends, said, "Maybe \$5 billion to \$10 billion."

That total, if confirmed, would represent several times the Philippine national budget for 1985 of 68.1 billion pesos, or \$3.1 billion.

President's Salary Is \$4,700

Under the Constitution, the President of the Philippines receives an annual salary of 100,000 pesos, or about \$4,700. He is prohibited from engaging in any other business while in office or joining any Government corporation that could be a source of additional income.

Mr. Salonga, an opposition activist and former senator before Mr. Marcos imposed martial law in 1972, said that he had spoken this morning with President Reagan's special envoy to the Philippines, Philip C. Habib, about the issue of the Marcos holdings and that the United States Embassy was prepared to cooperate with his commission. He said the Center for Constitutional Rights had been hired to represent the Philippine Government in New York.

Copies of two of the documents involved in the inquiry were obtained by The New York Times today from the Philippine Government, which considers them basic evidence in its effort to list Mr. Marcos's overseas holdings.

Telex and a Covering Note

The documents were a telex from the Bernsteins' real estate concern to a close associate of Mrs. Marcos and a covering note from the associate to Mrs. Marcos.

The documents appear to offer evidence backing the contention of the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs that the Bernstein brothers acted for the Marcos family in handling what are said to be its real estate holdings in New York.

On Monday, a New York State Supreme Court Justice said he had issued a temporary restraining order in a case involving four pieces of real estate in Manhattan and on Long Island.

The order temporarily bars the sale or transfer of the four properties, which the Philippine Government con-

tends were acquired with money improperly amassed by Mr. Marcos.

Last week, Joseph Bernstein said the New York Land Company, of which he is president, was the new owner of the properties, which include the Herald Center shopping complex and 40 Wall Street. These properties were reportedly gifts from Mr. Marcos to his wife, although the Marcoses have denied owning property in the United States.

'Have Done Nothing Wrong'

Mr. Bernstein issued a statement Monday saying, "Since we have done nothing wrong, and no laws have been broken, we look forward to an expedited resolution of this matter."

The Philippines Government said it was forwarding copies of documents that it says show the Bernstein brothers "were acting on behalf of the Marcoses and for the benefit of the Marcoses with regard to certain offshore properties."

The documents obtained in Manila today included a telex dated Oct. 1, 1981, from the New York Land Company to Glicerio Tantoco, a close associate of Mrs. Marcos. Mrs. Tantoco is president of the Rustan Commercial Corporation, which owns a large Manila department store.

Without mentioning the property involved, the telex urges Mrs. Tantoco to appoint new management of "the new building" as soon as possible and offers to handle management for a flat fee of \$3,500 a month.

"Leasing commissions would be pursuant to our proposal," the telex says. "We would, however, be flexible to negotiate a flat annual management retainer."

"We would recommend appointment of new management as soon as possible," it says, "since it is important to start immediately with lease analysis, renovation concepts and building policies."

'Dear Mam' Letter

The telex was obtained together with a hand-written covering note from Mrs. Tantoco addressed to "Dear Mam," the appellation by which Mrs. Marcos is often known.

"This is a copy of the telex of Mr. Bernstein," the note reads. "Do you agree to this and we'll just work out the subsequent other details? I gave him your initial direction and he knows what to do."

Both the telex and the note are slightly damaged, as if they had been partly burned.

These and other documents were re-

covered after Mr. Marcos and his family fled Malacanang Palace a week ago. Members of Mr. Salonga's commission, which began its work today, said most of the documents remained in a locked vault in the presidential palace.

A Cabinet member in the new Government of President Aquino said some members of her staff would begin moving into offices in the palace in the next few days.

Mr. Salonga said he did not know how long his investigation might take because it will most likely include legal action in the United States, Latin America, Switzerland and Britain. He said he believed deposits in Brazilian banks and in the Bahamas were involved.

Issue of Electric Company

The first major seizure, he said, will be the Manila Electric Company, which was taken from its owners after Mr. Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

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Mr. Marcos was one of the nation's highest individual taxpayers when he took office in 1965. He has since denied charges of corruption, saying his wealth comes from a lucrative law practice before he became President.

Mr. Salonga said his commission was charged with recovering "all ill-gotten wealth accumulated by former President Ferdinand E. Marcos, his immediate family, relatives, subordinates and close associates, whether located in the Philippines or abroad."

He said the commission's actions could include the takeover or sequestration of "all business enterprises and entities owned or controlled by them during his administration, directly or through nominees, by taking undue advantage of their powers, authority, influence, connections or relationship."

Mr. Salonga's panel has the power to administer oaths, issue subpoenas, hold witnesses in contempt and request help from any branch of Government.

"We are not a court of law," he said, "but we are a quasi-judicial commission."